Children 6-59 month of age who received vitamin A supplementation

Rationale for use

Vitamin A supplementation is considered a critically important intervention for child survival due to the strong evidence that exists of its impact on child mortality. Therefore, measuring the proportion of children who have received vitamin A in the last six months is crucial for monitoring coverage of interventions towards the child survival related goals (MDGs) and strategies.

Definition

Proportion of children 6-59 months of age who have received a high dose vitamin A supplement in the last 6 months

Associated terms

High dose vitamin A - The International Vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG) definition is: "doses equal or greater than 25,000 IU"

Data sources

Household surveys such as Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

Methods of estimation

Empirical data.

Disaggregation

By age, location (urban/rural, major regions/provinces), and socio-economic characteristics (e.g. mother's education level, wealth quintile).

References


Data base

- Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS): (http://www.measuredhs.com)

- Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS): (http://www.childinfo.org/MICS2)

Comments

The framework for the discussion and review of child health indicators in the UNICEF/WHO Meeting on Child Survival Survey-based Indicators was the set of prevention and treatment interventions outlined in the Lancet series on child survival. These indicators are usually collected in DHS and MICS surveys; however, the accuracy of reporting in household surveys varies and is likely to include recall bias. Therefore, the comparability of results across countries and over time may be affected. There are also significant discrepancies between data obtained through household surveys and those obtained from National Immunization Days and routine service statistics for this indicator, which are currently under investigation by a team from Emory University.